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Honors student Michael Senecharles explains the reasons for the crisis in the US automobile industry to a crowd at the Honors Presentations.

- Photo by Phuong Tang

THE HONORS PRESENTATIONS HIGHLIGHT "GREENING" AND THE ECONOMY

By Judy Kahalas

The annual end-of-semester Honors Presentations took place on Reading Day, May 7, with 12 students presenting their final research projects. After welcoming the large gathering of faculty, administration, and students, Honors Coordinator Dr. Eric Entemann introduced Dr. Terry Gomes, President of the college. Dr. Gomes spoke to the Honors students about his pride in their

scholarship and in the program in general.

Students from the Honors Colloquium and Honors Component classes presented papers on a variety of topics: organic food production, oil prices, the auto industry, human rights and dental care, community gardens in Zimbabwe, the economy, the cost of health care, and war in Darfur.

The Gazette congratulates these gifted students and their commit-

ment to research: Kodjo Agblekpe, Corinna Hilton, Alexandria King, Tariana Little, Ajhani McCullough, John Murphy III, Barbara Owens, Michael Senecharles, and Ebere Udoji.

If you would like information about the Honors Program at RCC, please contact Prof. Entemann at center@rcc.mass.edu.

Judy Kahalas, Faculty Adviser to The Gateway Gazette

Center for Student Success Short Essay Contest

The Center for Student Success invites you to participate in our spring Student Success Essay Contest

In 150 words (max), Tell us what "student success" means to you! Essays must be typed in Microsoft Word, 12pt font and e-mailed to Dean Mark Garth at mgarth@rcc.mass.edu

The final date for submission is May 15th, 2009 5:00 PM

Winners will be notified by mail and winning essays will appear on the Center for Student Success Web Page!

Good Luck!

Two winners will receive Texas Instrument TI-83 Graphing Calculators and two winners will win iPod Nanos!



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RCC WOMEN'S BASKETBALL TEAM FINISHES SEASON AS REGION XXI RUNNER-UP

Erin Harper

bounds in the loss.

The Roxbury Community College Women's Basketball Team finished its season on Sunday as the NJCAA's (National Junior College Athletic Association) Region XXI Runner-Up, falling to UCONN-Avery Point in the Championship Game, 61-58, in overtime.

Freshman guard Jasmine McNeil, RCC's leading scorer throughout the season, exploded for 14 points in the first seven minutes of the game before suffering a shoulder sprain. Her minutes were limited for the rest of the first half, and she only scored four additional points throughout the duration of the game. Freshman guard Christalle Lynch had 16 points and 15 re-

RCC finished the season ranked ninth in the NJCAA Division III National Poll with a 22-5 record. Freshman co-captain Willeen Capehart and McNeil were both named to the Region XXI First Team. Freshman forward Jessica Underwood was named to the Second Team. Head Coach Mark Leszczyk was named Region XXI Division III Coach of the Year.

Please join the Athletics Department in congratulating the Women's Basketball Team on a truly phenomenal season!

Ms. Harper is the Sports Information Director at the Reggie Lewis Center and RCC Athletics. She can be reached at eharper@rcc.mass.edu.



Women's Basketball Team

- Photo by Milton Samuels

AN UPDATE ON RCC'S PROGRESS UNDER ACHIEVING THE DREAM

By Professor Sterling Giles

In the 08-09 academic year, the College has embraced several goals in its work under Achieving the Dream. Last year we studied student data, conducted student focus groups and stakeholder dialogues, worked with several college teams, and followed that up with surveys and discussions with various academic divisions and student support services departments. All of this led us to develop a proposal for work to be undertaken over the course of the next four years. We are well into the first year of implementing these changes.

Last year's work helped us to identify three particular areas of focus for continuous improvement: the fact that more students need to get extensive advising early in their educational experience; the need for improvement with the appropriateness of teaching/learning methods for our diverse student population; the challenges students face in developmental (pre-100-level) courses, especially math.

In the area of advising, we have combined academic and career advising and hired some more specialized staff. Full-time faculty have started to spend more time helping

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Students are studying at The Learning Center.

AN UPDATE...

« continued from page 1

students before each semester begins, and we are training part-time faculty to work as advisors, so there will be more advisors, and they will be the same people whom students see in class every day. We are also increasing our efforts to encourage first-semester students to take the College Experience course, and will make it a firm requirement to begin with that course, beginning Fall 2009, since so many students said that they had benefited from it and wished they had taken it sooner.

For new students we have started a learning community program. There are various combinations, but one example is a grouping where students take Math, English, and College Experience all together as a group. The teachers collaborate to make connections among the courses, and the students work in groups to do interesting projects on themes that connect to their lives and all the course areas. This is making it easier for students to learn the material because they see more practical reasons, applications, and relevance in the things they study, and they are working cooperatively with other students to solve problems. Tutoring for these classes is closely connected to the course, and one of the teachers is also the students' advisor. Students don't feel isolated here, and if they have problems, they get help right away from several directions. We are already planning more of these sections for Fall 2009, with

some courses for second and third-semester students as well.

The areas of Math and English will soon get some special attention. In Math we will hire a short-term expert to look at curriculum and recommend approaches, books, and ways to help students get over the fear of math that sometimes gets in the way of learning. For English a special focus on reading development, not just writing, will be involved. One of our faculty with expertise in this area has been working on the issue and will share her work with the faculty at large at our May Learning Academy.

We also plan to help faculty be more broadly effective in the classroom, but further discussion is needed before we decide precisely what kinds of help to offer. It is clear that we have both students and teachers of many ages, many kinds of prior educational experience, and from many different cultures. RCC has great diversity, but we don't believe we are taking full advantage of it. As mentioned before, helping students to overcome math anxiety is a goal. We are striving to make math more relevant to life and other subjects.

Finally, areas such as tutoring, the library, and academic support labs will be studied in greater detail. Professor Marie McIlwrath, who was recently hired as our Coordinator of Developmental Education, has extensive experience and we look forward to working with her.

We know that making a stronger connection between the teacher and the tutor is important; we are work-

ing to decide on the best way to do this.

Achieving the Dream is also affecting the development of the next strategic plan for the College. We are keeping student success at the center of goal development and measurement in the plan, to ensure that more people are involved in reporting on the relative success of various initiatives, and that success is measured more in terms of student outcomes than in terms of staff task completion. Finally, we expect to connect budgeting more substantively to the initiatives of the plan, and to have a plan which includes mechanisms for its own evolution and responsiveness to changing parameters.

Everything that is happening now is the distillation of a process that invited input from representatives of every constituency at the College and the communities it serves. Achieving the Dream has provided a structure to guide these changes. Some changes are already underway, and we are studying each aspect carefully and making changes in other areas over time. There is much to do, but it is worth the effort. Please be in touch with me if you have any questions about this important initiative.

Sterling Giles, Ed.M.
Coordinator of Achieving the Dream at RCC
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POET'S CORNER

The Only Woman

By Steven Posey

Her eyes exhibit how the years drained her life.
Blink once.

Another day goes by.

Her body is weak from the pain and suffering that life has offered.
Tears sang sweet remedies as they have relieved her mind and spirit of its emotional Frustration.

Emancipation...or freedom?

Bound no more by the evils of this world;
She is free.

She has broken free of her emotional prison.
She is now seeing life through a brand new vision.

Forever a symbol and marker

Legend; mother and father

Never will forsake

But harm her young and remember the mistake.

A woman of God she has blessed many with her presence.

One thing I ask is He continues to protect her.

She has risen so high above the evil one and his minions.

O God, continue to let her rise.

Rise above the enemy;

Enemy you are no friend of me

And when you rise up against me;

She will be there.

Strong and loving

Willing to die without care.

Life has beaten and battered her;

But she never retreated.

Her motto is "Stand strong and never be defeated".

Blink twice

And now reality has set in;

Your mind is blown by the words that I'm speaking.

This woman is not only a warrior;

She's a Queen.

My Queen; forever my Queen

Faced with life or death, she still chose me.

Blink three times.

Let me recite a prayer

Listen as all of you sit there pondering in your chairs.

Lord lay my enemies down to sleep.

I pray their souls you always keep.

See, that's a principle that she taught me

For if they die before they wake;

I pray their souls you will take

That's a promise that she has made.

To forgive.

Rivers of alcohol and she's still here;

An everlasting soldier; no enemy succeeds here;

Surprising as it may be

She's a part of me.

The one I truly love.

Blink four times

It's becoming clearer now.

I see the enlightenment as you lower your brow.

No more confusion on your face;

Yeah,

Alright, you caught the pace.

But it's not a race.

She loves me unconditionally and

Evidently I can't erase

All the pain and suffering

It's too much to face.

But I can make the now better by bettering me;

And help her to see

I love her.

There's no other woman

This woman

My mother.

The author is a Criminal Justice major at RCC.

Untitled

By Levi Boateng

Is this what we call the American Dream?

As things do not always seem what they seem

Daily, children perishing away

Breaking news at 5 every day,

Mothers and daughters getting raped.

Is there an exit through which to escape?

Living in this era is a nightmare

In which fear reigns absolute,

Where we are lucky to see tomorrow

As the world turns, it is filled with sorrow.

Mr. Boateng is a student at RCC, majoring in Business Administration.

RCC FACULTY PITCH IN AND HELP STUDENTS WITH TEXTBOOKS

By Judy Kahalas

Members of the RCC faculty have actively worked for several years to lessen the financial burden of college on our students. Several years ago faculty members recognized that the expense of tuition and books too often prevents students from successfully completing their education. For some years we held a holiday auction, combining flea market items from our own homes and gift certificates and other donations from local merchants. In those years, we gave scholarships to academically promising students.

More recently, however, the faculty has recognized that all students need assistance. We then decided to hold a yearly Bowlathon Event to raise money to purchase books for students who otherwise could not afford them. Through sponsorships and donations, we raise enough money to sustain the Roxies Fund and lend textbooks to students. Priority is given to those students who don't receive financial aid; however, we consider and review all applications.

At the end of the semester, students must return the books to the Writing Center. They are then logged into the bookstore under the Roxies account and are ready to be loaned for the following semester.

Any student who is interested in helping us to raise funds for the Roxies Book Loan Fund should contact members of the committee: Professors Rodriguez, Harrell, McCormack and Kahalas, or Dean Teel. Just send an email to jkahalas@rcc.mass.edu. We are looking for your ideas and participation.

Judy Kahalas, Faculty Adviser to The Gateway Gazette

LICENSING OF SPACE TO U.S. CENSUS BUREAU

By Michael Graham

The Census Bureau and Roxbury Community College have made an agreement to be paid \$450,000 by the Census Bureau to temporarily renovate space that will be occupied census employees. Although this is only supposed to be temporary, the space that the Census Bureau will be occupying is the entire Student Center which holds the current space for our cafeteria. A survey was conducted to get the student body's opinion on two questions: "Where should the new cafeteria go?" and "What kind of food should it serve?" The responses are below.



Cafeteria will be relocated to the first floor of the Academic Building.

- Photo by Phuong Tang

Christilee Lynch: *Building 3. Cheap food*
Willeen Caperhart: *Building 3. Same food but cheaper*

Ashley Murchison: *Building 3. Chicken & waffles*

Brittany Fernandes: *Building 3 1st floor. All kinds; be versatile*

Albert Brown: *Building 2 Administration. All kinds of food*

Jerrylin Montanez: *Building 2. Variety*
Jessy Coty: *Building 2. Administration variety*

Adler Fedestin: *Administration Building more of a variety; more soul food & Caribbean*

James McGruder: *Administration Building. Same stuff as now; just taste better!*

Please email your thoughts on the new cafeteria to Mr. Graham at: magraham@rcc.mass.edu.

As we go to press, we have learned that the Cafeteria will be relocated to the first floor of the Academic Building.

Michael Graham is a BMT major and a staff reporter for *The Gateway Gazette*.



"Angel" by Leshaah Williams, Visual artist and RCC student who is the Staff Illustrator of the *Gateway Gazette*. Students may e-mail their art works for inclusion in the paper to her at IFWWilliams@roxbury.edu.

GATEWAY GAZETTE

A publication of staff and students at
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1234 Columbus Avenue, Roxbury Crossing,
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Staff and students are invited to send letters to the editor, news tips, ideas for articles and photos and other information for the Gazette to writingcenter@roxbury.edu. All submissions are subject to editing and run on a space available basis. The opinions expressed in these pages do not necessarily reflect those of the newspaper.

Faculty advisors: Judith Kahalas and Sandra Storey

THE GATEWAY GAZETTE NEEDS YOU

WE NEED STUDENTS TO HELP PUT OUT THE CAMPUS NEWSPAPER:

JOIN THE TEAM AND JOIN THE FUN!

If you have an interest in working with a dynamic group of students and want to learn about publishing a newspaper, then join our staff. Contact us today at writingcenter@roxbury.edu

The Gazette also welcomes opinion on any topic of interest to the RCC community. Send your opinion in 500 words or fewer to writingcenter@roxbury.edu. Please provide your name for publication and your telephone number for verification purposes. The Gazette does not accept anonymous opinion pieces. The Gazette reserves the right to edit for length and clarity.

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